



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

ORIGINAL



SDMS DocID 2063814

# **LOWER DARBY CREEK AREA SUPERFUND SITE**

## **CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE 45**



ORIGINAL

**INTERVIEW SUMMARY**  
**Task Order 0001 Site 2**  
***Lower Darby Creek Area Site***



Prepared for:

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Region 3**  
Enforcement Support Services  
Hazardous Site Cleanup Division  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

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Prepared by:

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Work Assignment Number:	Task Order 0001 Site 2
Date Submitted:	April 1, 2005
Contract Number:	EP-S3-04-01
EPA Work Assignment Manager:	Carlyn Prisk
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Interviewer:	Michael McCloskey
	Tri-State Enterprise

Interview Summary  
[REDACTED]

April 1, 2005

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**Name:** [REDACTED] (WITNESS)  
[REDACTED]**Affiliation:** Ambulance Driver, Collingdale Volunteer Fire Company**Telephone:** [REDACTED]**Type of Interview:** In-Person**Date of Interview:** March 31, 2005

On March 31, 2005, the WITNESS was interviewed at the Collingdale, PA Volunteer Fire Company Fire House by Michael McCloskey, Senior Investigator of Tri-State Enterprise. The WITNESS was interviewed as part of the Potentially Responsible Party search currently being conducted under Task Order 0001, Site 2 involving the Lower Darby Creek Area Site (the "Site.") This interview focused on the Clearview Landfill. The WITNESS was provided with a copy of the letter of introduction, advised of the nature of the questions to be asked and that the interview was voluntary. The WITNESS stated that he is not represented by an attorney in this matter and does not want an attorney. No other persons were present and this interview was not tape-recorded.

During the course of this interview, the WITNESS responded to questions based on guidelines provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for area residents.

The WITNESS was shown an aerial photograph of the Clearview Landfill and this aerial photograph was used throughout the interview.

The WITNESS was asked to explain his association with the Clearview Landfill.

The WITNESS stated that he has been a member of the Collingdale Volunteer Fire Company since 1957. The WITNESS stated that he was the ambulance driver for the Collingdale Volunteer Fire Company from [REDACTED] to approximately [REDACTED].

The WITNESS explained that the Collingdale Volunteer Fire Company was the only fire company that operated an ambulance in the western part of Delaware County, PA. The WITNESS further stated that the Collingdale Fire Company ambulance responded to requests from Darby, Darby Township and Sharon Hill whenever an ambulance was needed.

When asked if he had ever responded to the Clearview Landfill when operating the Collingdale Ambulance, the WITNESS stated "yes." The WITNESS stated that he recalls responding at least thirty (30) times during the 1950s and 1960s. The WITNESS stated that the ambulance was requested to transport injured individuals who were working on the Clearview Landfill.

When asked if he recalls any fatalities on the Clearview Landfill, the WITNESS stated "yes." The WITNESS stated that he responded to the Clearview Landfill in the late 1950s or early 1960s with the ambulance at the request of the Darby Township Volunteer Fire Department. The WITNESS stated he observed a box truck fully engulfed in flames when he arrived. The WITNESS stated that he observed magnesium burning in the truck and on the ground. The WITNESS stated that the driver of the truck had escaped the truck in time but his helper was in the back of the truck and was burnt to death.

The WITNESS stated that he retrieved the body and transported the body to Fitzgerald Hospital where the individual was pronounced dead. The WITNESS stated that he then transported the body to the Marvel Funeral Home.

When asked the name of the deceased, the WITNESS stated that he could not recall his name; however, he did recall that the individual was working part-time for a local manufacturing company and was a full-time Philadelphia firefighter. When asked if the deceased could have been a Philadelphia Police officer, the WITNESS stated "no" and explained the following:

The WITNESS stated that the Philadelphia Fire Department also responded to the scene and, when it was determined that the deceased was a Philadelphia fireman, the Philadelphia Fire Department wanted to take the body. The WITNESS stated that he recalls the Darby Township Police Chief had to order the body released to the custody of the WITNESS.

When asked the name of the manufacturing company for which the deceased was working when the fire occurred, the WITNESS stated that he could not recall. The WITNESS noted that the local General Electric plant used magnesium in its manufacturing process and that the truck could have come from General Electric.

When asked if the truck could have been from the Westinghouse Plant, the WITNESS stated "no." The WITNESS explained that he was employed by Westinghouse as a firefighter from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]. The WITNESS stated that Westinghouse maintained a full-time fire department on the plant premises. The WITNESS stated that he would have been notified by Westinghouse if the truck had been from Westinghouse.

When asked the name of the waste transporter that picked up waste at Westinghouse, the WITNESS stated that he could not recall.

The WITNESS was asked the names of any waste transporters he observed while on the Clearview Landfill. The WITNESS stated that he recalls the following:

- Citywide Service: The WITNESS stated that Citywide was garaged on Clearview Landfill and he recalls some of the trucks dumping waste on the landfill.

The WITNESS stated that he recalls heavy truck traffic every time he responded to the Clearview Landfill; however, he was unable to recall any further names of transporters.

The WITNESS stated that sometime in the mid-1960's, there was a general alarm fire on the Clearview Landfill. The WITNESS stated that approximately twelve fire companies responded including two fire stations from Philadelphia. The WITNESS stated that the fire was out of control for approximately two days. When asked how the fire started, the WITNESS stated that the cause was never determined. The WITNESS stated that the fire was both underground and above ground and spread over half of the land surface of the landfill. The WITNESS stated that the smoke and ash from the fire covered 84<sup>th</sup> Street and the surrounding area with thick ash.

"I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct."

Executed on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

Richard Stewart  
12/7/04

